



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2001

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

3482
U-020668
U-38727
(UT-070)

DEC 20 2001

Memorandum

To: Senior Project Manager Utah, Western Regional Coordinating Center,
Office of Surface Mining, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202-5733

From: Field Manager

Subject: Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), Wild Horse Ridge Mine,
Co-Op Mining Company

The Bureau of Land Management has received and reviewed the subject R2P2 as part of the permit application package for the new Wild Horse Ridge modification to the Bear Canyon Mine. This permit modification is to add Federal coal leases U-020668 and U-38727 and associated private lands and coal to the Bear Canyon Mine permit. This memorandum documents the Bureau's finding for the R2P2 and post-mining land uses as required by the laws governing the Federal coal lease and the public lands.

Co-Op has submitted mining and reclamation plans to access the coal under Wild Horse Ridge, across the canyon from the current Bear Canyon Mine. Though new portals will be constructed, coal loading and support structures will remain the same with only new coal haulage and portal facilities constructed. The coal under these two leases are most logically accessed via new portals. The R2P2 has been reviewed by this office and we find it complete and technically adequate. Though most of the lands involved with this permit addition are managed by the Forest Service, some lands are public lands managed by our agency. These lands are compatible with the current land use plan and we have no post-mining land use concerns with this project.

Therefore, the BLM concurs with the submitted Wild Horse Ridge Mine Plan addition with regard to post-mining land use on public lands and the protection of non-mineral resources. Also, the submitted R2P2 is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the lease terms and conditions, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. We recommend that the Secretary approve the R2P2 as part of the permit application. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff at (435) 636-3600.

Sincerely,

/s/ THOMAS E. RASMUSSEN

Thomas E. Rasmussen
Assistant Field Manager

cc: UT-921, Utah State Office
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
Co-Op Mining Company
P. O. Box 1245
Huntington, Utah 84528